

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01697 080714Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 071341Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, CB, NO
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL PRESS CONFERENCE

REF (A) OSLO 1667, (B) OSLO 1666, (C) GENEVA 5111, (D) STATE 84003,
(E) OSLO 1481 (NOTAL)

1. THE NORWEGIAN/CAMBODIAN TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 6 TO BEGIN FOCUSING THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC'S
ATTENTION ON THE APRIL 21-23 HEARINGS. HANS HENRIK RAMM, THE
OVERALL CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, (ALSO SECRETARY
OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP), AND COMMITTEE
MEMBER BISHOP ALEX JOHNSEN (FORMER LUTHERAN BISHOP OF OSLO)
EXPLAINED THE PURPOSES, THE BACKGROUND, THE PARTICIPANTS AND
THE PROCEDURES FOR THE UPCOMING HEARINGS. BOTH
RAMM AND JOHNSEN UNDERScoreD THE APOLITICAL NATURE OF THEIR
ENDEAVOR WHICH IS INTENDED TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON THE FACTS
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA TODAY. LISTING EH EXPERTS
WHO HAVE AGREED TO TAKE PART, THEY NAMED FRANCOIS PONCHAUD,
CHARLES MEYER (A FRENCHMAN WHO HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ENTITLED
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BEHIND THE KHMER SMILE), JEAN LACOUTURE, JOHN BARRON,
FRANCOIS DEBRE, URSULA NACCACHE, AN EDITOR IN READERS
DIGEST EUROPEAN OFFICE IN PARIS, AND SEVERAL NORWEGIAN
JOURNALISTS AND ACADEMICIANS.

2. DURING A POST PRESS CONFERENCE MEETING, PEDER MEIDELL,
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE

AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS REPRESENTING ALL MAJOR OSLO NEWSPAPERS WHO HAD APPEARED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT EVEN KLASSEKAMPEN AND NY TID (OSLO'S MARXIST/LENINIST-RADICAL SOCIALIST PRESS) HAD SENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO ASKED ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS THAT HAD ENABLED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO GIVE ALL THE RIGHT ANSWERS I.E. EMPHASIZING THAT NO MATTER WHAT ONE'S POLITICAL PERSUASION WAS, THEY COULDN'T HELP BUT VIEW THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA TODAY WITH DISTASTE.

3. MEIDELL ALSO SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD AGREED TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MONIES COLLECTED AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS. HE ASKED IF WE COULD TELL HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER JOHN BARRON WOULD ACCEPT THE EMBASSY'S OFFER FOR SUPPORT (OSLO 1667).

4. THE AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF ARE BEING SENT INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE INVITATION-ONLY HEARINGS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: BARRON'S RESPONSE ASAP.
BREMER

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